

THE BELLOWS

17th GREAT YEAR

March 21, 1996

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XVII, No. 6

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208rd. S. 2233 St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5..go to first stop light west of Pacific HWY. S..turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, March 21st, 1996..7:30 till 10:00 p.m. (door open about 6:30)
WHY	Regular meeting..short business meeting..auction..door prize..member trade & sell tables. The program will be those two intrepid travelers to the East, Darrel Womack and Gary Sivertsen, who will regale us with tales and pictures of their recent selling and buying trip to Japan.

ROLF GIERTSEN DIES:

It is sad to report that long time member and all around nice person Rolf Giertsen died at Christmas time while on a trip to the Puget Sound area. His wife Glenda says he had not been in good health for some time and his body just gave out. The Giertsens had moved out of the area a few years ago but they always came back for our camera shows. I, for one, always looked forward to my yearly chats with Rolf. He will be missed! Ed.

BOB PETERS PUBLISHES:

PSPCS member Bob Peters, under the pen name Robert Peters, has an interesting article in issue 62 of CameraShopper. Bob/Robert has written Gowlandflex 4X5 Twin Lens Reflex. I found the article to be quite interesting and well written. Now I know who can take over The Bellows when I run out of things to say. Way to go Bob! Now, how about a nice little article for The Bellows! Ed.

MARCH IS TWO SHOW MONTH:

By the time you are reading this the Portland show, held on March 10th, will be history..and have provided some interesting Show & Tell stories for our meeting. But don't forget the Vancouver Camera Show & Swap Meet planned for Sunday March 31, 1996. The Show will be held at the Kerrisdale Community Centre..5851 West Blvd. at 42nd Ave, Vancouver B.C. For information call Siggie Rohde (604) 941-0300.

AND SPEAKING OF SHOWS:

Our 16th annual show is only six weeks away. NOW IS THE TIME TO SPREAD THE WORD!! If you attend our meeting please take some show flyers and put them out at work or camera stores. Mail one to your brother-in-law or leave a pile at the next antique mall you slip into. All your help will be much appreciated. If you are coming from out of the area plan to car pool and bring all your neighbors. Pick up prosperous hitchhikers and have a sign in your back window that says, Follow Me! Whatever you do come planning to BUY, BUY, BUY!

THE EKTAR LENS CODE IS BROKEN:

Bob Peters calls to say that he got the following information for dating Ektar lenses off the internet. This would be for dating Ektar lenses in the 1940's and 50's.

Code continued...

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Bob says you take the word C a m e r o s i t y with the numbers above the letters. On each Ektar lense there are two letters and four to five numbers. By using the code cipher you can date the lense. Anyway, thats what Bob says. If you have any questions please talk to him..not me. Ed.

RAY AND PAULINE HIT THE BIG FIVE O:

Ray Kirlin asked me to run the following invitation. Congratulations to both of you..I've only had to put up with Ray for seventeen years Pauline, way to go! Ed.

You are cordially invited to join with us in the celebration of our Golden Wedding anniversary Sunday March 31st, 1996..2 pm to 5 pm at the Alke Masonic Temple, 4736 40th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA.
Raymond and Pauline Kirlin...No gifts please.

BACKSIDE INFORMATION

PSPCS MEETING FEBRUARY 15, 1996:

Meeting came to order at 7:36 pm. 48 members and 2 guests in attendance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mike Immel reported our picnic is scheduled for August 4th at Lake Sammamish park. Plans were discussed to reserve a space..have signs..have a swap meet/auction.

Bill Kimber reported everything running smoothly for April Show. All tables sold to 136 different sellers; 37 bought three tables. Volunteers needed for ticket taking.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mike Immel stated that the Boeing Camera Club would like to have a joint swap meet. Enough interest was shown by members present so Mike will pursue.

Antique Photographica Auction and Collectable brochures were passed around.

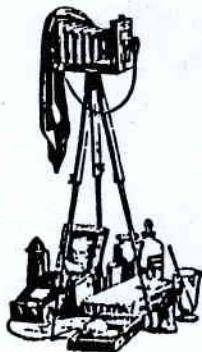
PROGRAM & SHOW & TELL:

Program was Show & Tell which consisted of TEN members showing some fantastic finds. Among those ten were two who shared their finds for the first time..Kenny Scalf and Chris Andrews. Many thanks to you all! Ed.

DOOR PRIZES:

Paul Johnson won the book "Evolution of Japanese Cameras" and John Sparrow won a Micro 110 camera.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to: Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (206) 564-4046.

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow P.O. Box 70, Ronald, WA 98940 (509) 649-2477. P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our spring show.

PRESIDENT: DAVE STUDEBAKER, (206) 582-4878

Collecting for fun and ... ?

by Milan Zahorcak

There was an interesting article entitled "CPI Ain't Camera Protection Insurance" by Mike Roskin in the December, 1995 *CameraShopper* (Issue 60). Roskin discussed cost-of-living and the consumer price index, and provided some insights on how well collectible cameras have kept up with inflation. He also provided a handy table of multipliers so the reader could roughly calculate the selling price of yesterday's cameras in today's dollars.

I was really intrigued with those numbers, but Roskin's table had nothing prior to 1940, and I'm more interested in cameras that were produced in the 1880s. So here's a variation of his table with some representative cameras and their original prices in today's dollars. By the way, if you average out the numbers in Roskin's table, you'd get a straight line inflation rate of about 4.5% per year from 1940 to 1995 (not the best method, but close enough for our work).

4.5% is probably much too high for calculations back to the late 1800s. Things were more stable back then, and inflation didn't seem to be as worrisome as it is today. For discussion

purposes, I assume an annual inflation rate of 2% from 1880 to 1940, and 4.5% from 1940 to 1995. My trusty HP-12 calculator did the rest, converting the inflation rate and number of years into a Price Factor.

Date	Camera	Orig. Price	Price Factor	1995 "Price"	McK'n Est.
1885	Anthony 5x7 Novelette	\$ 45	33.5	\$1,508	\$ 375
1885	Blair Lucidograph	27	33.5	905	1,000
1888	The Kodak	25	31.5	788	3,000
1890	Blair Hawk-Eye	15	30.3	455	225
1895	EKC Pocket Kodak	5	27.4	137	175
1900	EKC Brownie (typical)	1	24.9	25	5
1900	The Kombi	3.50	24.9	87	250
1900	#1 Folding Pocket Kodak	10	24.9	249	75
1900	Premo 4x5	20	24.9	498	125
1905	Expo Watch Camera	2.50	22.5	56	225
1905	Blair Stereo Hawk-Eye	22.50	22.5	506	425
1905	Century Grand 5x7	55	22.5	1,238	200
1910	3-A Folding Pocket Kodak	22	20.4	449	45
1910	EKC #1 Panoram	10	20.4	204	325
1910	Naturalist Graflex	380	20.4	7,752	3,500
1915	Speed Graphic	85	18.5	1,573	125
1918	#3-A Special w/CRF (best)	125	17.4	2,175	65
1920	Vest Pocket Kodak Special	21	16.7	351	45
1920	EKC Stereo Kodak, #1	55	16.7	919	425
1925	Anso Memo	20	15.2	304	100
1925	RB Graflex	125	15.2	1,900	175
1930	EKC Petite	7.50	13.7	103	150
1930	Zeiss Kolibri	62.50	13.7	856	250
1935	Foth Derby	30	12.4	372	75
1940	Argus C-3	29.95	11.0	329	20
1940	EKC Bantam Special	87.50	11.0	963	250
1940	Leica D (black, 3.5 Elmar)	121.80	11.0	1,340	800

Hmmm? Lots of implications and food for thought. I'm particularly puzzled about the 1918 EKC Autographic Kodak Special with coupled rangefinder. This is a truly historic piece and yet, today, the top-of-the-line model in 1918 sells for about half of its original price. Sad. Maybe we'll return to this topic in a future column and address some the issues implied by the numbers.

From Brownie to APS

On February 1, 1996, Eastman Kodak Company announced its participation with several other companies in the new Advanced Photographic System. For collectors and historians, the most important factor is the date, which is 96 years to the day Kodak introduced the Brownie camera, as they specifically noted.



Cartoon is used, with thanks, from the Michigan Photo. Historical Society.

The information on this page is from The Photographic Historical Society Newsletter of New York. Thank you. Ed.

Why Was There a A Kodak Stereo Camera?

Your editor asked that question of Dr. Albert Chapman, retired CEO of Kodak in 1970. He said that Douglas Harvey of the Kodak Apparatus Division, Kodak's camera plant, brought a committee to him in about 1950. Their object was to persuade him that a Kodak stereo would be a big seller. It would be more like a conventional 35mm and without a rangefinder it would underprice the Realist. Costs to development would be low because it would be a refinement of a camera designed for introduction in 1940 and delayed by the war. Initially, Chapman nixed the project. Knowing Harvey, he knew he would be back so he did a little research. When the group returned he told them he had found that stereo became popular about once in every generation and lasted from six to eight years. The Realist had started the current boom in 1947. The Kodak camera would not be introduced until 1952. Dr. Chapman said, "I told them their time was up before they started. Then they gave me this 'worth the risk' story. But, I was right." The camera was on the market only a short time when the craze ended abruptly. They were later closed out, slowly, by Montgomery Ward and off-price NYC camera stores.

Why Was There a Stereo Realist? And from Milwaukee of All Places...

You have probably wondered why some camera was ever produced or perhaps why a particular manufacturer made it. For example, why did Parker Pen make a disc camera or why did Kodak for that matter. Why did **David White Instrument Company**, a firm which had never made any consumer cameras, make the **Stereo Realist**? Especially, when there wasn't an apparent market for 3-D cameras. The answer is somewhat better understood when you learn that a college student named Seton Rochwite was building handmade 3D cameras while attending Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI, during the 1940's. As the war ended, David White, a company primarily known for precision surveying instruments, was looking for a post-war product. It found one in Seton Rochwite's third hand made model. It became the prototype for the Stereo Realist, a camera of unusual design and format that brought the novelty of stereo Kodachrome slides to the average photographer with simplicity and at a reasonable price.

How Big is the Photographica Hobby? Does it Matter?

How many people today are enthusiastic photographica hobbyists? Like the stars in the sky no one really knows. Much depends on your definition of a person who fits the category. For the sake of argument, let's say a "photographica enthusiast" is one who spends at least a few hours of their free time each month, thinking about, reading about or actively doing something to further their knowledge of the field. Even using this broad definition, our ranks are comparatively thin.

By contrast, how many people are enthusiastic about fountain pens? **Pen World**, a newsletter for people who primarily collect fountain pens has a paid subscriber list of 135,000. 6000 in Russia alone! The editor receives hundreds of letters, in a dozen languages, from all over the world. While we do not know the number of subscribers to every photographica publication, few have reached the 1000 mark. Our newsletters and journals reflect this in their frequency and size.

How many people like dolls and turn of the century memorabilia compared to photographs and photo equipment? In photography's epicenter, the Rochester Strong Museum, which features such an eclectic collection, has over twenty-times more visitors per year than IMP/George Eastman House.

We bring this up because increasingly we hear complaints that people who were once very enthusiastic about photographica have become either much less active; are interested only in buying and selling photographica for profit than in the historical aspects of the hobby or have become more interested in high-tech activities unrelated to photography.

Even for groups specializing in one marque or topic, such as Leica or stereo, there seems to be declining or at the most, stable membership lists. Attempts at starting new interest groups have mostly failed.